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26 April 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Minutes of Special Group Meeting, 26 April 1962

PRESIDENT: General Taylor, Mr. Johnson, Mr. McCone and General Lansdale

The Attorney General was present for the first item.

1. Colonial Parker and Mr. Boyd gave a run-down on preliminary results of a recent reconnaissance mission.

2. Reconnaissance of North Vietnam

Mr. McCone said that he felt the paper as presented would permit too many sorties. At his suggestion, the proposal was amended to read "not to exceed two flights per month."

Mr. Johnson asked that after three months the Special Group be briefed on results up to that time, with the idea that it would consider then whether authorization should be continued.

The Group then approved the proposal for the months of May, June and July, with the stipulations mentioned above.

3. Reservation of Other Space Objects

It was agreed that Mr. Johnson would get together with Dr. Charky and/or Mr. Gilpatric, to try to reconcile the [redacted] differences between State and Defense on this matter.

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4. Christian Democratic Training School in [redacted]

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Mr. Johnson and Mr. McCone agreed that U.S. involvement in this project must be completely non-attributable, otherwise it would have little value. The Group agreed with the proposal, with the understanding that operations would be conducted in this manner. It was noted that [redacted] is required for FY 1962 and that the funds for FY 1963 (estimated at [redacted]) would have to be made available by internal reprogramming [redacted]

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NSC review(s) completed.

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The Group agreed that Tab C of this paper, i.e., the summary of Communist-directed indoctrination and training of [redacted] was a very significant document. Mr. McCone said that he proposed to show a condensed version of this tab to higher authority.

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5. Chinese Nationalist Plans for the Mainland

General Taylor noted that the problem of possible Chinese Nationalist operations against the mainland has now been returned to the jurisdiction of the Special Group.

Mr. McCone gave a brief progress report, stating that since the acceptance by Chiang Kai-shek of U.S. stipulations, authorization has been given to fit out two C-123's with counterelectronic gear at the expense of Defense, and that training of pilots at the expense of CIA has been authorized.

General Taylor suggested that Dr. Cline brief the Group at next week's meeting, and Mr. McCone concurred.

6. HBM 99

The Group agreed that the paragraph in HBM 99 which refers to the possible role of the Special Group in passing on military exercises, was hardly pertinent but no amendment of the language would be requested.

7. Reconnaissance Activities

General Taylor called the Group's attention to a memorandum from the Secretary of the Air Force, suggesting the deployment of a special EC-135 aircraft to the Pacific to calibrate it against U.S. nuclear tests. Mr. McCone explained that there is only one airplane of this type immediately available and that it is considered worthwhile to remove it from the [redacted] for this purpose. He added that another airplane of the same type is expected to be ready in the very near future and that this will be deployed in the [redacted]

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Mr. McCone then raised a question as to whether the responsibility of the Special Group did not require it to expand its supervision of reconnaissance activities into certain other fields not closely watched at this time. The Group agreed that this appears a logical move and General Taylor undertook to take it up with the proper official.

8. Berlin Progress Report

The fifth report of the Special Working Group on [redacted] dated 23 April 1962, was needed.

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9. CIA Requests of Air Activation

The Group noted this forecast for May.

10. Clayton Operation in North Vietnam

General Taylor called the attention of the Group to CINCPAC's cable, 250501Z, on the above subject.

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Mr. McCone said that he had received a proposal from within CIA to move the Tibetan guerrilla force, now located near [REDACTED] into Tibet, where they would require continuing air resupply. He said that he was not satisfied with this proposal and wanted at this time simply to call it to the attention of Mr. Johnson.

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Mr. McCone noted briefly some of the difficulties involved. He mentioned the problems inherent in any other disposition of this force, as well as the risks of continuing air operations, which he estimated would require about one sortie a month. He also recalled that he had told higher authority that air operations of this kind would not be requested in the future unless a joint arrangement could be worked out with the Indians. He explained that the latter has proved to be impossible, since the Indian Intelligence Service has no capability of engaging in operations of this kind without cutting in the Indian Defense establishment.

Mr. Johnson urged that CIA officers discuss with State officials the capabilities that the Tibetan guerrillas might have once inside Tibet. He said that he would talk with Governor Harrison and Ambassador Stabbins as soon as the latter arrives in Washington.

The opposition of Ambassador Galbraith to anything of this nature was noted. Mr. Farrett said that it had been felt that the Ambassador's letter did not require an answer, at least until a decision is made as to the eventual future of this project. He noted that a good deal of time has now gone by and that the question of an answer to Galbraith remains a pending problem.

Thomas A. Farrett

Distribution

Mr. Johnson
Mr. Gilpatrick
Mr. McCone
General Taylor

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